



Media Release

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

New Nutrients Requirements on Wastewater to San Francisco Bay

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Oakland - The San Francisco Bay Water Board has released for public review a new draft permit for nutrients discharged from municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the Bay Area. This permit will be the first step in a multi-year plan to address a potentially growing problem with nutrients in San Francisco Bay.

Recent research shows that reductions in Bay sediments and other factors have made the Bay more susceptible to adverse effects from excess nutrients. These effects include algae blooms and oxygen depletion that may harm fish and other aquatic life.

The draft permit proposes requirements to characterize the quantity and types of nutrients wastewater treatment facilities discharge and to evaluate potential wastewater treatment upgrades. The draft permit would also require support of scientific studies in the Bay to inform whether nutrient reductions will be needed to avoid adverse effects in the future.

The Water Board will consider [adopting the permit](#) at its hearing on April 9, 2014.

The [San Francisco Bay Water Board's](#) mission is to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and to ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.